



AF/3724

Atty. Dkt. No. 031890-1628

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Applicant: Schulz
Title: PAPER TRIMMER
Appl. No.: 10/057,850
Filing Date: January 25, 2002
Examiner: Charles Goodman
Art Unit: 3724

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING	
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Charles J. Schreck (Printed Name)	
Charles J. Schreck (Signature)	

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH 37 § CFR 1.192(C)

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

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On April 7, 2004, the Examiner in the above-referenced case issued a Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR § 1.192(c). The Examiner asserted that the Summary in Applicant's Appeal Brief of January 25, 2004 did not include references to the specification, drawings, and reference numerals. In response to the Examiner's objection, Applicant is submitting a replacement Appeal Brief herewith, in which references to the specification are identified by paragraph number and page number. References to the drawings and reference numerals are also included. No other changes have been made to the Appeal Brief, which is being submitted in triplicate.

In the event that the Examiner has any additional questions or objections, he is strongly encouraged to contact the Attorneys for Applicant by telephone such that these issues can be promptly addressed.

No fee is believed to be due with this Reply. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee to Deposit Account No. 06-1450 of Foley & Lardner LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 21, 2004

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BRIEF ON APPEAL

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.192, this Appeal Brief is being filed in triplicate together with a check in the amount of \$330.00 covering the Rule 17(c) appeal fee. If this fee is deemed to be insufficient, authorization is hereby given to charge any deficiency (or credit any balance) to the undersigned deposit account 06-1450.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Alterra Holdings Corporation is the real party of interest as a result of an assignment from the inventor, William J. Schulz. This assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 22, 2002 at Reel 012819, Frame 0717.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals and/or interferences.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 and 19-24 are pending¹. Claims 1-15, 17, 19-21 and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al.

Claims 16 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al. in view U.S. Patent No. 4,967,628, issued to Judd et al.

The claims in their current condition are attached hereto in the Appendix.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments are outstanding.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to a paper trimmer 10 comprising a base 12 including a support surface 34 and a cutting region 30 having a channel 32, and a plate 14 pivotally attached to the base 12. (FIGS. 1-3; ¶¶ 30-32 (Pg. 5, ll. 12-25)). The plate 14 includes an upper surface 48, a lower surface 50, a first end 52, a second end 54, and a slot 60 extending through the plate 14 along a longitudinal axis of the plate 14 intermediate the first and second ends 52 and 54. (FIG. 1-4; ¶¶ 35 (Pg. 6, ll. 11-22)). The slot 60 includes a first width 302 at a first portion thereof and a second width 304 at a second portion thereof, with the first width 302

¹ Appellant inadvertently omitted any claim 10 from the original application. There is therefore no claim 10 currently pending.

being larger than the second width 304. (FIGS. 12-15; ¶ 40 (Pg. 7, ll. 15-18)). A carrier 18 is slidably received in the slot 60 and sized to be removed from the slot 60 when positioned adjacent the first width 302 of the slot 60 and impeded from being removed when positioned adjacent the second width 304 of the slot 60. (FIGS. 3-5, 15; ¶¶ 12, 41 (Pg. 3, l. 22-Pg. 4, l. 8; Pg. 7, ll. 19-30)). A blade 100 is attached to the carrier 18, with a portion of the blade 100 extending below the lower surface 50 of the plate 14 within the channel 32 when the plate 14 is disposed over the cutting region 30. (FIGS. 4, 8; ¶ 12 (Pg. 3, l. 22-Pg. 4, l. 8); Abstract).

The present invention also relates to a material trimmer comprising a base 12 having a support surface 34 and a cutting region 30 having a channel 32, and a plate 14 movably attached to the base 12. (FIGS. 1-3; ¶¶ 30-32 (Pg. 5, ll. 12-25)). The plate 14 includes oppositely facing upper and lower surfaces 48 and 50, an elongated slot 60 therethrough, an elevated portion 49 proximate each side of the slot 60, with the elevated portion 49 leading to an arcuate surface 51, and a distal second end 54. (FIGS. 1-4 ¶ 35 (Pg. 6, ll. 11-22)). A carrier 18 includes a top flange having a pair of oppositely extending sides, a foot 90 extending from the top flange, with the foot 90 being slidably received within the slot 60, and a portion of the pair of oppositely extending sides being arcuate in shape and slidably received within the arcuate surface 51 of the elevated portion 49. (FIGS. 3-5, 15 ¶¶ 12, 41, 50 (Pg. 3, l. 22-Pg. 4, l. 8; Pg. 7, ll. 19-30; Pg. 10, ll. 4-7); Abstract) A blade 100 is attached to the carrier 18, with a portion of the blade 100 extending below the lower surface 50 of the plate 14 within the channel 32 when the plate 14 is disposed over the cutting region 30. (FIGS. 4, 8; ¶ 12 (Pg. 3, l. 22-Pg. 4, l. 8); Abstract). The slot 60 has differing minimum and maximum widths, wherein the foot 90 is

capable of being removed from the slot 60 when the carrier 18 is positioned adjacent the maximum width of the slot 60, and wherein the foot 90 is substantially incapable of being removed from the slot 60 when the carrier 18 is positioned adjacent the minimum width of the slot 60. (FIGS. 3-5, 13-15; ¶¶ 12, 41 (Pg. 3, l. 22-Pg. 4, l. 8; Pg. 7, ll. 19-30)).

The present invention also provides for a material cutter comprising a base 12 having a support surface 34 and a cutting region 30 having a channel 32, and a plate 14 movably attached to the base 12. (FIGS. 1-3; ¶¶ 30-32 (Pg. 5, ll. 12-25)). The plate 14 includes oppositely facing upper and lower surfaces 48 and 50, an elongated slot 60 therethrough, an angled portion 49 proximate each side of the slot 60, with the angled portion 49 leading to an arcuate surface 51, and a distal second end 54. (FIGS. 1-4; ¶¶ 35 (Pg. 6, ll. 11-22)). A carrier 18 includes a top flange having a pair of oppositely extending sides, a foot 90 extending from the top flange, with the foot 90 being slidably received within the slot 60, and a portion of the pair of oppositely extending sides being substantially cylindrical in shape and slidably received within the arcuate surface 51 of the elevated portion 49. (FIGS. 3-5, 15; ¶¶ 12, 41, 50 (Pg. 3, l. 22-Pg. 4, l. 8; Pg. 7, ll. 19-30; Pg. 10, ll. 4-7), Abstract) A blade 100 is attached to the carrier 18, with a portion of the blade 100 extending below the lower surface 50 of the plate 14 within the channel 32 when the plate 14 is disposed over the cutting region 30. (FIGS. 4, 8; ¶ 12 (Pg. 3, l. 22-Pg. 4); Abstract). The slot 60 has a nonuniform width such that the carrier 18 can be removed from the slot 60 when the carrier 18 is adjacent a maximum width of the slot 60. (FIGS. 3-5, 13-15; ¶¶ 12, 41 (Pg. 3, l. 22-Pg. 4, l. 8; Pg. 7, ll. 19-30)).

ISSUES

The first issue is whether the inventions as claimed in claims 1-15², 17, 19-21 and 23-24 are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The second issue is whether the inventions as claimed in claims 16 and 22 would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al. in view U.S. Patent No. 4,967,628, issued to Judd et al.

The claims in their current condition are attached hereto in the Appendix.

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-9, 11-15, 17, 19-21 and 23-24 are all rejected as being anticipated by the same reference and therefore will be discussed together as a first group.

Claims 16 and 22 are all rejected as being rendered obvious by the same pair of references and therefore will be discussed together as a second group.

ARGUMENT

A. Background

Claims 1-9, 11-17 and 19-24 are pending.

The present application was filed on January 25, 2002 with 25 claims. A first Official Action was mailed on April 1, 2003. In addition to a formal objection, the Examiner rejected all of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 due to a lack of antecedent basis in some claims

² Appellant inadvertently omitted any claim 10 from the original application. There is therefore no claim 10 currently pending.

and other informalities. The Examiner rejected 1-15, 17-21 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al. The Examiner also rejected claims 16 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious based upon U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al. in view U.S. Patent No. 4,967,628, issued to Judd et al.

Applicant filed an Amendment and Reply to the April 1, 2003 Official Action on June 11, 2003. In this Amendment and Reply, Applicant amended claims 1, 4, 5, 13 and 17 to overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In response to the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103, Applicant traversed the rejections, arguing with particularity that the prior art cited by the Examiner failed to disclose the feature in claim 1 of a slot having a first width at a first portion thereof and a second width at a second portion thereof, the first width being larger than the second width, wherein the carrier is sized to be removed from the slot when positioned adjacent the first width of the slot and impeded from being removed adjacent the second width of the slot. Also see similar features in claims 17 and 24.

In the Final Office Action mailed August 27, 2003, the Examiner repeated the rejections of claims based on U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al. in view U.S. Patent No. 4,967,628, issued to Judd et al. In response, Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal on November 25, 2003.

B. Discussion – Claims 1-5, 17, 19-21 and 23-24 are not Anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942

The Examiner has not made an adequate showing that claims 1-5, 17, 19-21 and 23-24 are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al. More particularly, the Examiner has failed to cite any reference that discloses a paper trimmer or a material trimmer

comprising a plate that includes a slot having a nonuniform width to permit the placement and removal of a carrier.

For a prior art reference to anticipate the claim of a patent, the reference must disclose each and every limitation of a claimed invention. See *Apple Computer, Inc. v. Articulate Systems, Inc.*, 234 F.3d 14, 20 (Fed. Cir. 2000). To make a prima facie case of anticipation, the Examiner must show that a reference contains a disclosure which is specific as to every element of the claims at issue. See, e.g., *In re Jochen Wagner and Helmut Wiss*, 2001 WL 1048474 (B. Pat. App & Interf. 2001), *In re Wilder*, 57 C.C.P.A. 1314, 1319, 429 F.2d 447, 451 (C.C.P.A. 1970). In this case, U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942 to Cornell et al. does not disclose every limitation of claims 1-5, 17, 19-21 and 23-24.

Independent claim 1 of the present application claims a paper trimmer comprising four principal elements:

- a base including a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;
- a plate pivotally attached to the base and including an upper surface, a lower surface, a first end, a second end, and a slot extending through the plate along a longitudinal axis of the plate intermediate the first and second ends, the slot having a first width at a first portion thereof and a second width at a second portion thereof, the first width being larger than the second width;
- a carrier being slidably received in the slot and sized to be removed from the slot when positioned adjacent the first width of the slot and impeded from being removed when positioned adjacent the second width of the slot; and
- a blade attached to the carrier, wherein a portion of the blade extends below the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region.

Similarly, claim 17 claims a material trimmer having a plate movably attached to a base and including an elongated slot, wherein the slot has differing minimum and maximum widths, and wherein a foot of a carrier is capable of being removed from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the maximum width of the slot, and wherein the foot is substantially incapable of being removed from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the minimum width of the slot. Likewise, claim 24 claims a material cutter having a plate movably attached to a base and including an elongated slot, wherein the slot has a nonuniform width such that the carrier can be removed from the slot when the carrier is adjacent a maximum width of the slot.

Claims 1-15, 17, 19-21 and 23-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942 to Cornell et al. (“Cornell”). The Cornell et al. patent describes a paper trimmer comprising a base and a plate pivotally attached to the base. The plate has a slot extending through the plate, and a carrier including a blade. Importantly, the carrier is snap fit within the slot of the plate. (col. 5, ll. 11-12). In particular, the plate is formed of a resilient material, which permits a bottom flange of the carrier to be placed within the slot. (col. 5, ll. 12-14). The snap means may also include the carrier having a flexible bottom flange, with the plate being rigid. (Col. 5, ll. 50-51).

The Cornell et al. patent is completely silent as to the feature of a slot having a nonuniform width to permit the placement and removal of the carrier. “A prior art reference anticipates a claim only if the reference discloses, either expressly or inherently, every limitation of the claim.” *Rowe v. Dror*, 112 F.3d 473, 42 U.S.P.Q.2d 1550, 1553 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (emphasis added).

Claims 1-9 and 11-16 all include the feature of the slot having a first width at a first portion thereof and a second width at a second portion thereof, the first width being larger than the second width, wherein the carrier is sized to be removed from the slot when positioned adjacent the first width of the slot and impeded from being removed adjacent the second width of the slot. Similarly, claims 17 and 19-23 describe a slot with differing minimum and maximum widths, wherein the foot of the carrier is capable of being removed from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the maximum width of the slot, and wherein the foot is substantially incapable of being removed from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the minimum width of the slot. Claim 24 describes a slot having a nonuniform width such that the carrier can be removed from the slot when the carrier is adjacent a maximum width of the slot. The Cornell et al. reference does not teach, disclose or even suggest this feature.

The above features are also not taught, disclosed or even suggested by any of the prior art cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. The Cornell et al. reference utterly fails to disclose or even suggest the use of a slot with a nonuniform width such that the user can selectively remove the carrier from the slot depending upon the carrier's relative position. This structure provides a number of substantial benefits to the user, not the least of which includes providing the user with the ability to easily remove and/or replace the carrier for purposes such as replacing the cutting blade. This arrangement also substantially eliminates any stresses on the carrier and/or the plate during the insertion and/or removal of the carrier, as no snap-fitting is necessary to correctly position or remove the carrier. The Cornell et al. reference

cited by the Examiner is completely silent as to this issue. In fact, the Cornell reference does not even mention the words “uniform,” “nonuniform,” or “vary” anywhere inside the patent.

In the Final Official Action dated August 27, 2003, the Examiner asserted that “[t]he argued features are exactly the same as shown in Fig. 11, which is the same as that shown in Figs. 3-4 in Cornell et al.” However, even a cursory examination of Figs. 3-4 reveals that those particular Figures of the Cornell et al. reference are completely inapplicable to issues in the present application. The feature at issue in the currently pending claims relates to the nonuniform width of the slot. A slot is designated as item 60 in the Cornell et al. reference. However, neither the slot nor item 60 is shown or identified anywhere in Figures 3 or 4. Furthermore, even if the slot were explicitly or implicitly identified in Figures 3 or 4, it is readily apparent that one still would not be able to glean any information from these Figures about the uniformity (or lack of uniformity) of the slot. Both of Figures 3 and 4 are cross-sectional views of the paper trimmer and provide absolutely no information as to the width of the slot, much less whether the width changes along the slot’s length. Furthermore, Figures 1 and 2 of the Cornell et al. reference, which have not been discussed or even mentioned by the Examiner, show the slot 60 as being completely uniform in width, showing no variance whatsoever that would permit a user to either insert or remove the carrier from the slot 60.

Because the Cornell et al. reference does not expressly or inherently describe the feature of a slot having varying widths, Appellant submits claims 1-9, 11-15, 17, 19-21 and 23-34 are not anticipated by the Cornell et al. reference.

C. Discussion – Claims 16 and 22 are not Rendered Obvious by U.S. Patent Nos. 5,802,942 and 4,967,628

The Examiner has not made an adequate showing that claims 16 and 22 are not rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,967,628, issued to Judd et al. More particularly, the Examiner has again failed to cite any reference that discloses a paper trimmer or a material trimmer comprising a plate that includes a slot having a nonuniform width to permit the placement and removal of a carrier.

In *In re Rijckaert*, 9 F.3d 1531, 1532, (Fed. Cir. 1993), the Federal Circuit outlined the burden on the PTO as follows:

In rejecting claims under 35 U.S.C. 103, the examiner bears the initial burden of presenting a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Only if that burden is met, does the burden of coming forward with evidence or argument shift to the applicant. *Id.* “A *prima facie* case of obviousness is established when the teachings from the prior art itself would appear to have suggested the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art.” *In re Bell*, 991 F.2d 781, 782, 26 U.S.P.Q.2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1993) (quoting *In re Rinehart*, 531 F.2d 1048, 1051, 189 U.S.P.Q. 143, 147 (CCPA 1976)). If the examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case, the rejection is improper and will be overturned. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met.

First, there must be some reasonable suggestion or motivation to modify the prior art reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success of achieving the desired goals. Finally, the prior art references when combined must teach all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on the Applicant’s disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Claims 16 and 22 of the present application, both of which are dependent claims, are directed to the feature of having a measuring instrument rotatably coupled to the base of the paper trimmer or the material trimmer. The Examiner has noted that the Judd et al. reference discloses a measuring instrument rotatably coupled to the base of a trimmer device. However, the Examiner again failed to address the fact that the Cornell et al reference utterly fails to disclose, teach or even suggest a plate including a nonuniform slot for enabling a user to easily insert or remove the carrier. This feature is also entirely absent from the Judd et al. reference, which clearly shows a uniform guidance slot 16 in Figure 1 of the patent. Because this limitation cannot be found in either of the prior art references cited by the Examiner, the only reasonable conclusion is that the rejection of claims 16 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is improper.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-9, 11-15, 17, 19-21 and 23-24 are not anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al. Additionally, claims 16 and 22 would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al, and U.S. Patent No. 4,967,628, issued to Judd et al. Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Apr 21, 2004

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APPENDIX

1. A paper trimmer, comprising:
 - a base including a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;
 - a plate pivotally attached to the base and including an upper surface, a lower surface, a first end, a second end, and a slot extending through the plate along a longitudinal axis of the plate intermediate the first and second ends, the slot having a first width at a first portion thereof and a second width at a second portion thereof, the first width being larger than the second width;
 - a carrier being slidably received in the slot and sized to be removed from the slot when positioned adjacent the first width of the slot and impeded from being removed when positioned adjacent the second width of the slot; and
 - a blade attached to the carrier, wherein a portion of the blade extends below the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region.
2. The paper trimmer of claim 1, wherein the carrier includes a top flange having a width greater than that of the slot and a bottom flange having a width greater than that of the slot.
3. The paper trimmer of claim 2, wherein the slot includes the first width at the first end of the plate.
4. The paper trimmer of claim 2, wherein the slot includes the first width at the first and second ends of the plate, and wherein the slot has the second width between the first end and the second end of the plate.
5. The paper trimmer of claim 1, wherein the carrier includes first and second cylindrical portions on opposite sides of the slot, and wherein the plate includes an arcuate portion on each side of the slot corresponding to the cylindrical portions of the carrier such that the carrier travels along the plate via the interaction of the cylindrical portions with the arcuate portions.

6. The paper trimmer of claim 5, wherein the plate comprises a resilient material.
7. The paper trimmer of claim 6 wherein the lower surface includes a recessed track formed proximate the slot for receiving the bottom flange of the carrier.
8. The paper trimmer of claim 7, wherein the lower surface includes a pair of ribs proximate the recessed track.
9. The paper trimmer of claim 5, wherein the base includes an attachment edge having a plurality of aperture configured for attachment to a ring binder.
11. The paper trimmer of claim 5, wherein the support surface includes a raised guide proximate one of the sides to align the paper or material to be cut.
12. The paper trimmer of claim 5, further comprising: a blade assembly including a blade holder having a first portion and a second portion hingedly connected to the first portion, the blade holder including locating means for positively locating the blade within the first and second portions, the carrier including a cavity to slidably receive the blade assembly.
13. The paper trimmer of claim 12, wherein the locating means includes a stud attached to one of the first portion and the second portion of the blade holder, the blade includes a cutting edge and a foot having an aperture sized to receive the stud.
14. The paper trimmer of claim 13, wherein the blade cutting edge is arcuate.
15. The paper trimmer of claim 13, wherein the blade cutting edge has an apex formed at the juncture of a first cutting portion and a second cutting portion diverging away from one another thereby permitting the user to cut paper by movement of the carrier in either direction along the longitudinal axis.
16. The paper trimmer of claim 1, further comprising a measuring instrument rotably coupled to the base.

17. A material trimmer comprising:
a base having a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;
a plate movably attached to the base and including:
 oppositely facing upper and lower surfaces,
 an elongated slot therethrough,
 an elevated portion proximate each side of the slot, the elevated portion
leading to an arcuate surface, and
 a distal second end;
a carrier including a top flange having a pair of oppositely extending sides, a foot
extending from the top flange, the foot being slidably received within the slot, and a portion of
the pair of oppositely extending sides being arcuate in shape and slidably received within the
arcuate surface of the elevated portion; and
a blade attached to the carrier, a portion of the blade extending below the lower
surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region,
wherein the slot has differing minimum and maximum widths, and wherein the
foot is capable of being removed from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the
maximum width of the slot, and wherein the foot is substantially incapable of being removed
from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the minimum width of the slot.
18. Cancelled.
19. The material trimmer of claim 17, wherein the slot has the minimum width at the
substantially opposite ends of the plate, and wherein the slot has the maximum width between the
substantially opposite ends of the plate.
20. The material trimmer of claim 17, wherein the elevated portion is angularly
defined away from the slot.
21. The material trimmer of claim 20, wherein the portion of the pair of oppositely
extending sides is substantially cylindrical in shape.

22. The material trimmer of claim 17, further comprising a rotatable member coupled to the base.

23. The material trimmer of claim 22, wherein the plate is formed from a resilient material.

24. A material cutter, comprising:
a base having a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;
a plate movably attached to the base and including:
 oppositely facing upper and lower surfaces,
 an elongated slot therethrough,
 an angled portion proximate each side of the slot, the angled portion leading to an arcuate surface, and
 a distal second end;
a carrier including a top flange having a pair of oppositely extending sides, a foot extending from the top flange, the foot being slidably received within the slot, and a portion of the pair of oppositely extending sides being substantially cylindrical in shape and slidably received within the arcuate surface of the elevated portion; and
a blade attached to the carrier, a portion of the blade extending below the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region,
wherein the slot has a nonuniform width such that the carrier can be removed from the slot when the carrier is adjacent a maximum width of the slot.